

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following claim listing:

Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method for managing a sequential process using a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

displaying a plurality of selectable objects on a graphical user interface, each object corresponding to a step in a sequential process;

enabling a user to select one of the objects according to an order of steps of the sequential process;

enabling the user to complete the corresponding step of the selected object;

in response to completion of the corresponding step, visually distinguishing the object to indicate that the corresponding step has been successfully completed;

determining when a first previously completed step corresponding to a visually distinguished object has been selected again, and in response to selection of the first previously completed step:

enabling the user to change the first previously completed step;

in response to the first previously completed step being successfully completed again, determining whether a second previously completed step corresponding to another object is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step; and

when the second previously completed step is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step, visually distinguishing the object corresponding to the second previously completed step to indicate that the second previously completed step is to be completed again.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

enabling the user to complete the second previously completed step again and any other previously completed steps dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step, wherein the previously completed steps are completed again in the order of steps of the sequential process.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
visually distinguishing the object corresponding to the second previously completed step to indicate that the second previously completed step has been completed.
24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein:
visually distinguishing the object to indicate that the corresponding step has been successfully completed comprises displaying an indicator adjacent to the object;
and
visually distinguishing the object to indicate that the second previously completed step is to be completed again comprises removing the indicator.
25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein visually distinguishing the object comprises modifying the display of the object.
26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the steps in the sequential process are related to controlling an automatic x-ray inspection system configured to detect manufacturing defects in printed circuit boards.
27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the steps in the sequential process are related to controlling a process for preparing an income tax return.
28. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining whether all the steps in the sequential process have been successfully completed.
29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein enabling the user to complete the corresponding step further comprises opening a separate window on the graphical user interface.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein enabling the user to complete the corresponding step further comprises enabling the user to complete a plurality of sub-steps of the selected object.

31. (New) A computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium for managing a sequential process using a graphical user interface, the computer program comprising logic configured to:

- display a plurality of selectable objects on a graphical user interface, each object corresponding to a step in a sequential process;

- enable a user to select one of the objects according to an order of steps of the sequential process;

- enable the user to complete the corresponding step of the selected object;

- in response to completion of the corresponding step, visually distinguish the object to indicate that the corresponding step has been successfully completed;

- determine when a first previously completed step corresponding to a visually distinguished object has been selected again, and in response to selection of the first previously completed step:

- enable the user to change the first previously completed step;

- in response to the first previously completed step being successfully completed again, determine whether a second previously completed step corresponding to another object is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step; and

- when the second previously completed step is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step, visually distinguish the object corresponding to the second previously completed step to indicate that the second previously completed step is to be completed again.

32. (New) The computer program of claim 31, wherein the logic is further configured to:

- enable the user to complete the second previously completed step again and any other previously completed steps dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step, wherein the previously completed steps are completed again in the order of steps of the sequential process.

33. (New) The computer program of claim 32, wherein the logic is further configured to:

visually distinguish the object corresponding to the second previously completed step to indicate that the second previously completed step has been completed.

34. (New) The computer program of claim 31, wherein the logic is further configured to:

visually distinguishing the object to indicate that the corresponding step has been successfully completed comprises displaying an indicator adjacent to the object; and

visually distinguishing the object to indicate that the second previously completed step is to be completed again comprises removing the indicator.

35. (New) A system for managing a sequential process using a graphical user interface, the system comprising:

logic configured to:

display a plurality of selectable objects on a graphical user interface, each object corresponding to a step in a sequential process;

enable a user to select one of the objects according to an order of steps of the sequential process;

enable the user to complete the corresponding step of the selected object;

in response to completion of the corresponding step, visually distinguish the object to indicate that the corresponding step has been successfully completed;

determine when a first previously completed step corresponding to a visually distinguished object has been selected again, and in response to selection of the first previously completed step:

enable the user to change the first previously completed step;

in response to the first previously completed step being successfully completed again, determine whether a second previously

completed step corresponding to another object is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step; and

when the second previously completed step is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step, visually distinguish the object corresponding to the second previously completed step to indicate that the second previously completed step is to be completed again;

a processing device configured to implement the logic; and

a display device configured to support the graphical user interface.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the logic configured to visually distinguish the object comprises logic for modifying the display of the object.

37. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the system manages a sequential process related to controlling an automatic x-ray inspection system configured to detect manufacturing defects in printed circuit boards.

38. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the system manages a sequential process related to controlling a process for preparing an income tax return.

39. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the logic configured to enable the user to complete the corresponding step further comprises logic for opening a separate window on the graphical user interface.

40. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the logic configured to enable the user to complete the corresponding step further comprises logic for enabling the user to complete a plurality of sub-steps of the selected object.